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X-FACTOR
ISSUE #205

MARVEL

Previously...

With the members of their race slowly dying out and no new mutants being born, mutantkind was on the brink of extinction. In need of a miracle, the X-Men were elated when one came in the form of Hope—a newborn mutant who held the promise of repopulation. Under attack by those who would see mutantkind extinguished, the X-Men sent the infant into the future with one of their own, Cable, to be raised under his protection and one day return to the present.

Now Cable and Hope have returned to the present. But the X-Men were not the only ones awaiting their return: Bastion, a super-Sentinel from the future hellbent on exterminating all mutants, has used an alien virus to revive many of the X-Men's enemies, including the creator of Sentinel technology Bolivar Trask. The virus allows Bastion to control those he reanimates but the minds of the undead remain intact, leading them in some cases to fight back against his control. But Bastion's hold is too strong and the members of his cabal are seemingly unable to free themselves from his influence. Now Bastion and his undead cabal are in pursuit of Cable and Hope in an effort to seal mutantkind's fate once and for all.

Elsewhere, the Mutant Response Division, headed up by Bolivar Trask, has targeted X-Factor for elimination. To that end, they enlist the villain known as the Absorbing Man to go to the mutant detective agency with a story of how his significant other, Titania, has been cheating on him. Madrox, Longshot and Rictor drive to a deserted cabin to follow her, only to be ambushed by the MRD, with the car and our heroes all being filled with bullet holes.

Meanwhile Guido and Monet are in South America, attempting to rescue her father from the clutches of Baron Mordo. Guido squares off against Mordo but the pair are caught off guard by the armed intervention of an MRD team, who gravely wound Mordo and incapacitate Guido...

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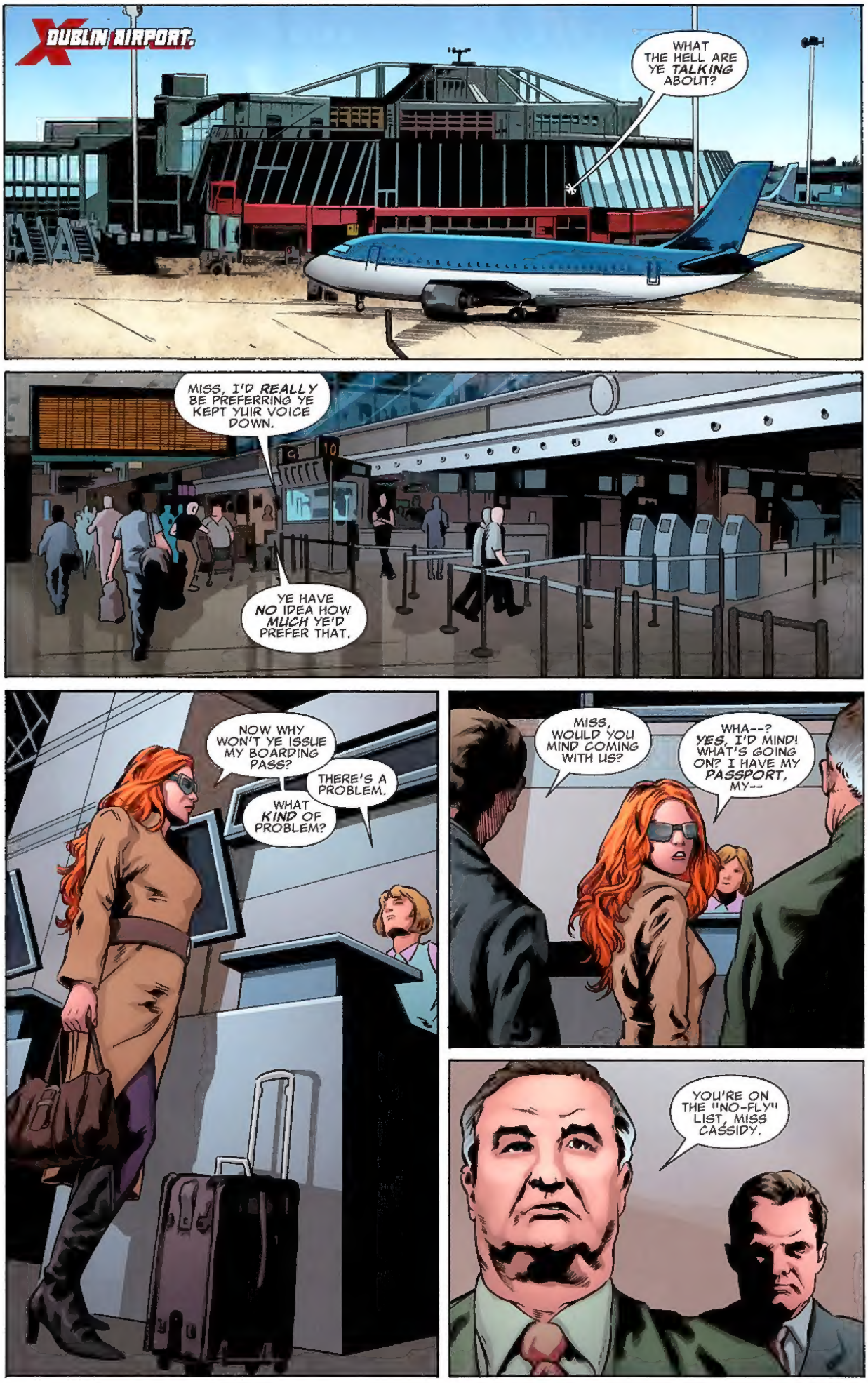
THIS IS NASH. WE HAVE X-FACTOR HEADQUARTERS COVERED.
NO MOVEMENT FROM INSIDE.
YOU AND YOUR SQUAD KEEP A CLOSE EYE, NASH.
WHEN THEY FIND OUT WE JUST TOOK DOWN THEIR THREE PALS, THEY'RE SURE TO REACT.
BUT THE ONLY ONE LEFT THERE IS TARGET DARWIN, RIGHT?
YOU NEVER KNOW. THE OTHERS SHOULD SHOW UP AT ANY TIME. IF SO, DO NOT ENGAGE UNLESS ATTACKED.
WHAT'RE YOU WEARING SUNGLASSES AT NIGHT FOR, SON?
I DIDN'T COPY THAT, NASH.
WHOA! STAND DOWN, SOLDIER BOY!
WE DON'T GOT NO PROBLEM HERE! NONE AT ALL!
SCAN NEW CONTACT.
NASH, REPORT!
SORRY, COLONEL. SLIGHT DISTRACTION. NOT A MUTANT.

A MUTANT! DAMN, SON, DO I LOOK LIKE ONE OF THEM MUTANT FREAKS?!
WELL, THAT'S THE PROBLEM, SIR: SOMETIMES THEY LOOK JUST LIKE YOU AND ME.
THERE SOME MUTANTS 'ROUND HERE? LEMME AT 'EM. LEMME AT 'EM!
NASH, WHAT THE HELL--?
JUST GOING A COUPLE OF ROUNDS WITH PAPPY YOKUM, COLONEL.
SIR, PLEASE MOVE ALONG.
YOU GONNA GO IN SHOOTING, SON?
WE'RE NOT GOING IN AT ALL, SIR.
LAST THING WE WANT IS A FIREFIGHT IN A HEAVILY POPULATED CIVILIAN AREA. WE WON'T FIRE THE FIRST SHOT.
THAT'S GOOD TO KNOW, SON.
KEEP ON KEEPING HUMANITY SAFE.
THANK YOU, SIR.
COLONEL, THE DISTRACTION IS GONE.
THAT'S GOOD, NASH. ALL YOUR MEN ARE STILL ON STATION?
YES, SIR.

UPSTATE NEW YORK.
EXCELLENT, NASH. WE'RE ABOUT TO DO CLEAN-UP ON THIS END.
COLONEL MORAN! I'M GETTING AN UPDATE.
WE HAVE A TWENTY ON THERESA CASSIDY.
ABOUT BLOODY TIME, SYLVIUS. WHERE IS OUR NEWLY CHRISTENED "BANSHEE"?
MRD
YOU'RE GONNA LOVE THIS.


DUBLIN AIRPORT.
WHAT THE HELL ARE YE *TALKING* ABOUT?
MISS, I'D *REALLY* BE PREFERRING YE KEPT YUIR VOICE DOWN.
YE HAVE *NO* IDEA HOW *MUCH* YE'D PREFER THAT.
NOW WHY WON'T YE ISSUE MY BOARDING PASS?
THERE'S A PROBLEM.
WHAT *KIND* OF PROBLEM?
MISS, WOULD YOU MIND COMING WITH US?
WHA--? *YES*, I'D MIND! WHAT'S GOING ON? I HAVE MY *PASSPORT*, MY--
YOU'RE ON THE "NO-FLY" LIST, MISS CASSIDY.

BWAAHAHAHAA!
MISS CASSIDY, THIS ISN'T FUNNY.
THERE'S JUST A CERTAIN IRONY TO MY BEING TOLD I CAN'T FLY, IS ALL. YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND...
WE UNDERSTAND ALL TOO WELL, MISS CASSIDY.
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
IT MEANS THE U.S. HAS ENOUGH MUTANTS TO WORRY ABOUT.
COME WITH US NOW.
YEAH, THAT'S REALLY NOT HAPPENING.
YOU'RE MAKING A MISTAKE--
NOT AS BIG AS YOURS.
AND I GOT YOUR "NO FLY" RIGHT HERE.

EEEEEEEEEEE
LOCK ON TRACERS!
FIRE!

BUDDABUDDABUDDABUDDA
EEEEEEEEEE
AAAARRHHH
--UNNFFFFF!!!

SHE'S DOWN! TARGET BANSHEE IS DOWN!
IS SHE DEAD? SHE SHOULD BE DEAD.
DON'T SEE BLOOD. I THINK SHE USED HER SONICS TO ABSORB SOME OF THE IMPACT.
DO WE APPREHEND?
ORDERS ARE: NO ONE WALKS AWAY.
URKH--?!
SNAKT
KUURRKHH!!
KUD

YES. BY ALL MEANS, NO ONE WALK AWAY. INSTEAD...
RUN.
RUN VERY, VERY QUICKLY.
OR... Y'KNOW... DON'T.
I'M GOOD EITHER WAY.

UPSTATE NEW YORK.
DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN, PEOPLE.
MUTANTS HAVE A STRANGE HABIT OF COMING BACK FROM THE DEAD.
THEY'D HAVE TO COME PRETTY FAR BACK FROM THIS ONE, COLONEL.
TRUE ENOUGH, SYLVIUS.
TRUE EN--
WHAT THE HELL--?!
IT'S SOME KIND OF HOLOGRAM!!

THEY'RE NOT REALLY HERE?!
BUT...BUT THEN WHO DROVE THE CAR?!
I DID!!
OOOOOFF!!!!
AND GUESS WHAT! MY BODY'S EVOLVED TO ABSORB YOUR BULLETS. BASICALLY I'M EATING LEAD NOW. SO Y'KNOW, THANKS FOR THAT.
WHAT'D YOU THINK OF THE DANGER ROOM TECH WE INSTALLED IN THE CAR? MAKES REALISTIC, REACTIVE HOLOS. PRETTY COOL, HUH.

DARWIN! IT'S TARGET DARWIN!
YOU BET YOUR ASS IT'S DARWIN!
STAY DOWN! YOU SO MUCH AS TWITCH, I CRUSH YOUR THROAT!
IF YOU'RE GAMBLING THAT I WOULDN'T KILL HER--
OH, WE KNOW YOU WOULD.
YOU DON'T KNOW JACK, ARMY MAN! NOT ABOUT ME! ABOUT US!
ABOUT ANYTHING!
WE'RE NOT PEOPLE TO YOU! YOU SEE US AS LESS THAN HUMAN!
YOU THINK A GUY WITH MY SKIN COLOR CAN'T WRAP HIMSELF AROUND THAT?
THIS ISN'T ABOUT RACE...
YOU'RE TRYING TO EXTERMINATE MY PEOPLE! HOW THE HELL IS THIS NOT ABOUT RACE?!

I COULD KILL YOU ALL! DON'T THINK I COULDN'T. MY POWER IS TO EVOLVE IN ORDER TO SURVIVE...
AND IF SURVIVING MEANS I EVOLVE INTO A CREATURE THAT REACHES DOWN YOUR THROATS AND RIPS OUT YOUR GUTS WHILE YOUR TOYS HAVE NO EFFECT ON ME... FANTASTIC.
REALLY. CAN YOU EVOLVE TO HANDLE--
...OVERWHELMING FORCE?
OH, CRAP..
BWWZZZZZZZ
SWEEP THE AREA! MAYBE HE'S TURNED INVISIBLE!

WHOA!
JEEZ!!!!
DARWIN, WHAT THE HELL--?!?
IT'S NOT MY FAULT! THIS HAPPENED WHEN I FOUGHT THE HULK!
MY STUPID BODY DECIDED THE BEST WAY TO SURVIVE WAS TO TELEPORT ME OUT OF--
WAIT... RICTOR?
WHAT'S WITH THE--?
I WANTED TO DO SOME INTELL GATHERING; SEE WHAT THEY'RE UP TO.
THEY'VE GOT THE HQ LOCKED DOWN, BUT THEY DON'T WANT TO START A MAJOR THROW DOWN IN THE CITY. NOT IF THEY CAN HELP IT, ANYWAY.
HOW'D THE HOLOS WORK OUT? IF I'D HAD MORE TIME, I COULD'VE PROGRAMMED ONE TO DRIVE THE CAR...
NAH, IT WAS FINE. LITTLE HAIRY, BUT FINE.
COME ON. LET'S GET TO THE SAFE HOUSE.
...AND HOPE MADROX HAS OUR NEXT MOVE LINED UP.

I GOT NOTHIN'.
SURE, I WAS SMART ENOUGH TO HAVE LONGSHOT TAKE CREEL'S WAD OF CASH, WHICH HE THEN GOT A READ OFF OF.

AND HE SAW THAT CREEL GOT IT FROM A MEMBER OF THE MUTANT RESPONSE DIVISION.
THAT THE WHOLE THING WAS A SET-UP.
SO WE PLAYED ALONG, BOUGHT SOME TIME, DREW THEM OUT, SAW WHAT THEIR PLAN WAS.
BUT NOW WHAT?

MADROX? WHAT'S--?
DARWIN CALLED IN. HIS POWER SHUNTED HIM AWAY FROM THE SITE.
IS HE OKAY?
MORE PISSED THAN ANYTHING.

THE MRD'S PLAN IS TO EXECUTE US, LONGSHOT. PURE AND SIMPLE.
THIS IS WHAT IT'S COME TO. HERE...AND IN SCOTT'S UTOPIA...
THEY SMELL BLOOD, LONGSHOT. MUTANTKIND IS AT ITS LOWEST EBB, AND THEY WANT TO FINISH US OFF.

WHO'S "THEY," EXACTLY?

THEY'RE ALL "THEY."

"WE SHOULD NEVER HAVE LET GUIDO AND MONET HEAD OUT AFTER MONET'S DAD."
"IT'S NOT AS IF YOU HAD A CHOICE, MADROX. THEY TOOK OFF ON THEIR OWN."
"THAT'S NOT THE POINT, LONGSHOT. THE POINT IS, WE'RE STRONGER TOGETHER THAN SEPARATELY."
"HUNH."
"WHAT DO YOU MEAN, 'HUNH?'"
"WELL, ISN'T THAT WHAT CYCLOPS BASICALLY SAID BACK IN UTOPIA? AND YOU THOUGHT HE WAS BEING FOOLISH."
"HOW DO YOU KNOW WHAT I SAID TO CYCLOPS?"
"YOU TOLD US. I WASN'T THERE; I WAS OFF HAVING SEX WITH ALLISON. REPEATEDLY."
"YEAH, I KNOW, YOU KEPT TELLING US THAT EVER SINCE YOU FINALLY WANDERED BACK. ENOUGH ALREADY."
"LOOK...DON'T WORRY ABOUT MONET AND GUIDO. I'M SURE THEY'LL BE BACK ANY TIME NOW. AND THEY'LL WANT TO KNOW WHAT OUR NEXT MOVE IS. YOU, UHM..."
"YOU DO HAVE A PLAN, RIGHT, MADROX?"
"OH YEAH. GOT IT COVERED."

UNFFFF!
YOU'D HURT THE MASTER, YOU--!
STAY BACK! HE DID NOTHING.
MONET!
WHAT'D YOU DO T'HER?!
LET... GO, YOU FOOL!
I SAID WHAT DID YOU DO?!
PUT HIM DOWN!
IF YOU KILLED HER, I'LL--!
EVERYONE, SHUT UP!

OH, THE, UH...
THE GAG IS GONE
YOU'RE HER DAD.
YES.
WE WERE LOOKING FOR YOU.
WELL...MISSION ACCOMPLISHED.
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON AROUND H--
THAT... CREATURE... IS DYING OF CANCER.
APPARENTLY MY DAUGHTER'S LIFE ESSENCE HAS A UNIQUE QUALITY TO IT THAT MAKES HER ATTRACTIVE TO CERTAIN... PARASITES.
HE WAS USING IT TO PUT HIS CANCER INTO REMISSION.
I WAS GIVEN A NEW LEASE ON LIFE THANKS TO SOME... TEMPORAL SHENANIGANS... THAT NEED NOT CONCERN YOU.
BUT AS I RETURNED, SO DID MY CANCER. I AM NOT ABOUT TO LET MY BODY'S WEAKNESS DOOM ME A SECOND TIME.
AND YOU DECIDED TO FEED OFF MONET? YOU SON OF A--
AND YOU APPEAR TO HAVE SOLDIERS TRYING TO KILL YOU. WHAT IS YOUR CRIME, MUTANT, OTHER THAN WANTING TO LIVE?
WELL?
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT. THE LENGTHS WE WILL GO TO MAY DIFFER...
BUT ULTIMATELY WE'RE BOTH JUST FIGHTING TO SURVIVE, AGAINST GREATER ODDS THAN A MORE GENEROUS GOD WOULD HAVE ALLOWED.
AND IF WE'RE TO ACCOMPLISH THAT, WE WILL HAVE TO DO IT TOGETHER.

DUBLIN AIRPORT
THEY'RE TOGETHER! TAKE HER!
YOU REALLY DON'T WANT TO.
NOW!
OOOOKAY..
BUDDABUDDABUDDABUDDA
SPLUCH
SPLUCH
SPLUCH
BY THE WAY, I'M LAYLA MILLER. I KNOW ST--
AHHH, FORGET IT, YOU DON'T CARE.

"TRASK."
"I HEAR YOU, BASTION. WHAT IS IT?"
"DUBLIN AIRPORT'S SITUATION IS UNACCEPTABLE."

TARGETS SHATTERSTAR AND MILLER ARE LIBERATING TARGET BANSHEE...
...SANGUINELY.
I KNOW. IT'S EMBARRASSING. WE SEEM TO BE HAVING TROUBLE KILLING A HALF DOZEN MUTANTS TOTAL, NONE OF WHOM ARE WOLVERINE.
PERHAPS WE SHOULD JUST GIVE U--
NYAARRRRHHHH!
TAKE CONTROL. FINISH THEM.
YES, SIR. TAKING CONTROL...
...SIR.

X-MEN SECOND COMING

NEXT:

X-FACTOR #206

MARCH 2010:

- [x] CHAPTER 1: X-MEN: SECOND COMING #1

APRIL 2010:

- [x] CHAPTER 2: UNCANNY X-MEN #523
- [x] CHAPTER 3: NEW MUTANTS #12
- [x] CHAPTER 4: X-MEN: LEGACY #235
- [x] CHAPTER 5: X-FORCE #26
- [x] X-MEN: SECOND COMING – REVELATIONS: X-FACTOR #204

MAY 2010:

- [x] CHAPTER 6: UNCANNY X-MEN #524
- [x] CHAPTER 7: NEW MUTANTS #13
- [x] CHAPTER 8: X-MEN: LEGACY #236
- [ ] CHAPTER 9: X-FORCE #27
- [x] X-MEN: SECOND COMING – REVELATIONS: X-FACTOR #205
- [x] X-MEN: SECOND COMING – REVELATIONS: HELLBOUND #1
- [ ] X-MEN: SECOND COMING – REVELATIONS: BLIND SCIENCE #1

JUNE 2010:

- [ ] CHAPTER 10: UNCANNY X-MEN #525
- [ ] CHAPTER 11: NEW MUTANTS #14
- [ ] CHAPTER 12: X-MEN: LEGACY #237
- [ ] CHAPTER 13: X-FORCE #28
- [ ] X-MEN: SECOND COMING – REVELATIONS: X-FACTOR #206
- [ ] X-MEN: SECOND COMING – REVELATIONS: HELLBOUND #2

JULY 2010:

- [ ] CHAPTER 14: X-MEN: SECOND COMING FINALE
- [ ] X-MEN: SECOND COMING – REVELATIONS: HELLBOUND #3

minutemen

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